

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A fan control module for a system unit, the fan control module comprising power outputs for supplying power to a plurality of fans, a temperature sensor for giving a temperature signal, and a control unit connected to receive the temperature signal and including preprogrammed control information for determining power signals to be supplied to each of the fans for controlling the speed thereof dependent upon the temperature signal.

10 2. The fan control module of claim 1, comprising at least one power input for receiving power from a power supply, the fan control module including electrical noise isolation circuitry to isolate system components from electrical noise generated by the fans.

15 3. The fan control module of claim 1, comprising a first part for controlling a first pair of fans, the first part comprising respective first power outputs for supplying power to the first pair of fans, and a first control unit connected to the temperature signal from the temperature sensor and including first preprogrammed control information for determining first power signals to be supplied to each of the first pair 20 of fans for controlling the speed thereof dependent upon the temperature signal; and a second part for controlling a second pair of fans, the second part comprising respective second power outputs for supplying power to the second pair of fans and a second control unit connected to the temperature signal from the temperature sensor and including second preprogrammed control information for determining second 25 power signals to be supplied to each of the second pair of fans for controlling the speed thereof dependent upon the temperature signal.

4. The fan control module of claim 3, wherein the first and second information is identical.

5. The fan control module of claim 3, comprising one power input for receiving power from a power supply for the first part, the first part including first electrical noise isolation circuitry to isolate system components from electrical noise generated by the first pair of fans, and a second power input for receiving power from a power supply for the second part, the second part including second electrical noise isolation circuitry to isolate system components from electrical noise generated by the second pair of fans.
- 10 6. The fan control module of claim 1, wherein a first fan is a system fan for drawing air into the system unit and a second fan is a processor fan for driving air over a processor module in the system unit.
7. The fan control module of claim 3, wherein a first fan of each pair of fans is a system fan for drawing air into the system unit and a second fan of each pair of fans is a processor fan for driving air over a processor module in the system unit.
8. The fan control module of claim 1, configured on a circuit board.
- 20 9. The fan control module of claim 1, wherein speed signals from each of the fans are passed via the fan control unit.

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10. A system unit including a fan control module, the fan control module comprising power outputs for supplying power to a plurality of fans, a temperature sensor for giving a temperature signal, and a control unit connected to receive the temperature signal and including preprogrammed control information for determining power signals to be supplied to each of the fans for controlling the speed thereof dependent upon the temperature signal.

11. The system unit of claim 10, wherein the fan control module comprises at least one power input for receiving power from a power supply, the fan control module including electrical noise isolation circuitry to isolate the power supply from electrical noise generated by the fans.

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12. The system unit of claim 10, wherein the fan control module comprises a first part for controlling a first pair of fans, the first part comprising respective first power outputs for supplying power to the first pair of fans and a first control unit connected to receive the temperature signal from the temperature sensor and including first

10 preprogrammed control information for determining first power signals to be supplied to each of the first pair of fans for controlling the speed thereof dependent upon the temperature signal; and

a second part for controlling a second pair of fans, the second part comprising respective second power outputs for supplying power to the second pair of fans and a

15 second control unit connected to receive the temperature signal from the temperature sensor and including second preprogrammed control information for determining second power signals to be supplied to each of the second pair of fans for controlling the speed thereof dependent upon the temperature signal.

20 13. The system unit of claim 12, wherein the first and second information is identical.

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14. The system unit of claim 11, wherein the fan control module comprises one power input for receiving power from a power supply for the first part, the first part including first electrical noise isolation circuitry to isolate system components from electrical noise generated by the first pair of fans, and a second power input for receiving power from a power supply for the second part, the second part including second electrical noise isolation circuitry to isolate system components from electrical noise generated by the second pair of fans.

15. The system unit of claim 10, wherein a first fan is a system fan for drawing air into the system unit and a second fan is a processor fan for driving air over a processor module in the system unit.

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16. The system unit of claim 10, wherein a first fan of each pair of fans is a system fan for drawing air into the system unit and a second fan of each pair of fans is a processor fan for driving air over a processor module in the system unit.

10 17. The system unit of claim 10, wherein the fan control module is configured on a circuit board.

18. The system unit of claim 17, wherein speed signals from each of the fans are passed via the fan control unit.

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19. The system unit of claim 10, wherein the system unit is a computer system unit including at least one processor module.

20. The system unit of claim 19, including up to four processor modules.

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21. The system unit of claim 19, wherein the signals output by the control units is dependent upon the number of processor modules present.

22. The system unit of claim 10, rack mountable in a rack.

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23. A method of controlling cooling of a system unit, the method comprising: a fan control module a temperature signal from a temperature sensor;